



7-2-04

AF3739

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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. (0320-0020) HOOV 120

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Michael D. Hooven

Serial No.: 10/015,476

Filed: December 13, 2001

Group Art No.: 3739

Examiner: Rosiland S. Rollins

For: TRANSMURAL ABLATION DEVICE

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NAME Renée Barthel

SIGNATURE Renée Barthel

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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to the document listed on the attached form, which the document may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of the document is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus or method disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed document is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of the document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any

disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of the document discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being mailed before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114. Accordingly, a fee is not required for the filling of this information disclosure under 37 C.F.R § 1.97(b)(4).

In addition, the cited information was first called to Applicant's attention in an Office Action dated June 16, 2004 in related Application Number 10/015,862 filed on December 12, 2001. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), it is hereby stated: no item of this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the best knowledge of the person signing this certification after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to filing of this information

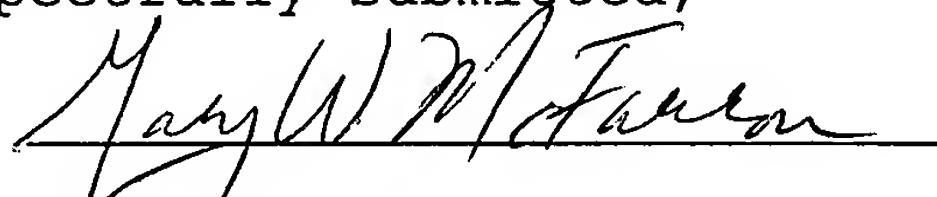
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(A duplicate of this document is enclosed herewith.)

Date: July 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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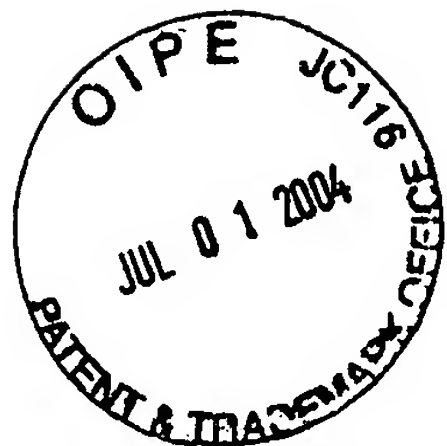
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	10/015,476
	Filing Date	December 13, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Michael D. Hooven
	Group Art Unit	3739
	Examiner Name	Rosiland S. Rollins
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number (HOOV 120) 0320-0020

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Signature	<i>Gary W. McFarron</i>
Date	July 1, 2004

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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/015,476
Filing Date	December 13, 2001
First Named Inventor	Michael D. Hooven
Art Unit	3739
Examiner Name	Rosiland S. Rollins
Attorney Docket Number	0320-0020 (HOOV 120)

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**

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